

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action issued May 3, 2007. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

#### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 2-20 are pending. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended.

#### **II. Examiner Telephone Interview**

Applicant appreciatively thanks the Patent Examiner, Frederick Lagman, for the courtesy and effort extended to Applicant's attorneys by conducting a May 31, 2007, telephone interview with Attorneys Pierre Yanney and Cameron Elliot. During the interview Examiner Lagman and Applicant's Attorneys discussed the nature of the outstanding rejections, the prior indication of allowable subject matter, proposed amendments, and how those amendments distinguish over the cited references. Agreement was reached on a proposed amendment to claim 5 which would place claims 5 and 6 in condition for allowance. The claims presented by this Amendment are believed to adopt the Examiner's suggestions made during the interview.

#### **III. Claim Rejections**

Claims 2-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,597,930 to Rochelle et al. ("Rochelle"). The Examiner states that Rochelle discloses shaped parts (41, 42, 43) and a series of plates (41, 42) that are attached in situ.

Independent claims 5 and 13 have been amended to require welding in situ. Rochelle does not disclose welding in situ.

Claim 5 was indicated in the Office Action dated October 12, 2006 as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten in that form. Also, it is respectfully submitted

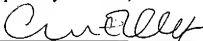
that the substance of claim 13, as presented in this Amendment, corresponds generally to a species of claim 5. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 5 and 13, as presented herein, are allowable. Claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend on claim 5, while claims 14-20 depend on claim 13, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reason as their respective base claim.

#### IV. Conclusion

In view of the present Amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-20 are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the present case be allowed and passed on to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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